

PRINCE GEORGE'S COUNTY  
HISTORIC SITE SUMMARY SHEET

Survey # PG #66-28

Building Date 1909

Building Name Bowers-Sargent House

Location 9312 Rhode Island Avenue, Daniels Park, Maryland

Private / Residence / Occupied / Excellent / Inaccessible

Description:

The Bowers-Sargent House is a frame dwelling of the bungalow type. It is one-and-one-half stories high, with hipped roof; the upper story is lighted by four large gable dormers, one in each plane of the roof and flush with each elevation. Entrance is in the center bay of the three-bay main east facade, sheltered by a one-story hip-roof porch with four slim Tuscan wood columns. The house is sheathed with German wood siding on the first story, and sawtooth shingles on the second, all painted white. There is a semi-octagonal projecting bay in the eastmost bay of each of the north and south elevations. The hip roof of the house rises to a horizontal central plane, from which rise two corbelled brick chimneys. The house has been enlarged by several one-story rear additions. Interior of the main block consists of four spaces divided in the front (east) by a modest stairway. In the north front parlor is a handsome wood mantel set diagonally in the southwest corner.

Significance:

The Bowers-Sargent House is a good representative of early twentieth century suburban housing. It combines features of several popular residential architectural styles of this period: Queen Anne style decorative elements, modified bungalow appearance, and a simplified American Foursquare floorplan. It stands on one of the original lots in an early twentieth century subdivision in the Branchville area. In 1905 and 1906, developer Edward Daniels purchased and platted a subdivision which he called Daniels Park; the land encompassed the tracks of the City and Suburban Railway, a streetcar line which by 1902 ran from Washington D.C. through this area to Laurel. In 1909, Daniels sold several lots to Walter J. Cogswell, who built the subject house, combining features of several popular residential architectural styles of the period. For 50 years, this house was the home of the Bowers house; it was sold in 1970 to William Sargent, whose heirs own and occupy the house today. With its distinctive hip-roof silhouette, and the Queen Anne style detail in its surface covering, the Bowers-Sargent House is an established visual feature in the Daniels Park community.

Acreage: 4604 square feet

# Maryland Historical Trust State Historic Sites Inventory Form

Survey No. PG#66-28

Magi No.

DOE yes no

## 1. Name (indicate preferred name)

historic Bowers House

and/or common Bowers-Sargent House

## 2. Location

street & number 9312 Rhode Island Avenue not for publication

city, town College Park Daniels Park vicinity of congressional district 5

state Maryland county Prince George's

## 3. Classification

Category	Ownership	Status	Present Use
<u>district</u>	<u>public</u>	<u>X</u> occupied	<u>agriculture</u> <u>museum</u>
<u>X</u> building(s)	<u>X</u> private	<u>unoccupied</u>	<u>commercial</u> <u>park</u>
<u>structure</u>	<u>both</u>	<u>work in progress</u>	<u>educational</u> <u>X</u> private residence
<u>site</u>	<u>Public Acquisition</u>	<u>Accessible</u>	<u>entertainment</u> <u>religious</u>
<u>object</u>	<u>in process</u>	<u>yes: restricted</u>	<u>government</u> <u>scientific</u>
	<u>being considered</u>	<u>yes: unrestricted</u>	<u>industrial</u> <u>transportation</u>
	<u>X</u> not applicable	<u>no</u>	<u>military</u> <u>other:</u>

## 4. Owner of Property (give names and mailing addresses of all owners)

name Linda F. Bergmann

street & number 9312 Rhode Island Ave. telephone no.:

city, town College Park state and zip code Maryland 20740

## 5. Location of Legal Description

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. Prince George's County Courthouse liber 7002

street & number 14735 Main Street folio 36

city, town Upper Marlboro state Maryland 20772

## 6. Representation in Existing Historical Surveys

title None

date federal state county local

depository for survey records

city, town state

## 7. Description

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### Condition

☒ excellent  
☐ good  
☐ fair

☐ deteriorated  
☐ ruins  
☐ unexposed

### Check one

☐ unaltered  
☒ altered

### Check one

☒ original site  
☐ moved      date of move \_\_\_\_\_

Prepare both a summary paragraph and a general description of the resource and its various elements as it exists today.

The Bowers-Sargent House is a one-and-one-half story frame dwelling of the bungalow type; it has a hipped roof, and stands on one of the lots platted in 1906 as "The Addition to Daniels Park". It fronts on the main road through Daniels Park, a right-of-way which originally carried the City and Suburban street-car line.

The house is one-and-one-half stories high, with hipped roof; the upper story is lighted by four large gable dormers, one in each plane of the roof and flush with each elevation. The main block is three bays by three and roughly square. Entrance is in the center bay of the principal east facade through a door with upper glazing above three molded panels, and a glass knob. The door has a plain board surround, and is presently protected by a shallow vestibule with storm door. Across the east facade is a one-story hip-roof porch with four slim Tuscan wood columns resting on brick bases, and a railing of turned balusters. A flight of wood steps leads to the porch, which has a wood floor supported by molded block piers with lattice infill.

The house is sheathed with German siding on the first story, and sawtooth shingles on the second, all painted white. The second story flares slightly, projecting a few inches above the first story; this juncture is defined by a narrow ogee molding. Windows are 1/1 double hung sash in the first story and in the dormers. In the main east facade, the first-story windows are positioned in pairs, i.e., there are two 1/1 windows side-by-side in each of the first and third bays. All windows have plain board surrounds painted white; green louvered wood shutters are in the process of being repaired and reinstalled.

The front rooms of the house are lighted and enlarged by two semi-octagonal projecting bays, one in the eastmost bay of each of the the north and south elevations. Each of these projecting bays is one story high, with hip roof, and each of its three faces is lighted by a narrow 1/1 window.

The hip roof of the main block rises to a horizontal central plane, from which rise two corbelled brick chimneys. The roof is covered with green asbestos shingles; the plain boxed cornice has plain soffits and a deep overhang.

The building rests on a concrete foundation which encloses a basement. Small single-sash two-pane windows light the basement level. Entrance to the basement was originally through a bulkhead

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Description (continued)

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in the northmost bay of the west foundation. This original entrance was recently closed by the construction of two one-story additions on the west (rear) elevation. A new cellar entrance, accessible by a flight of concrete steps, has been opened in the south foundation.

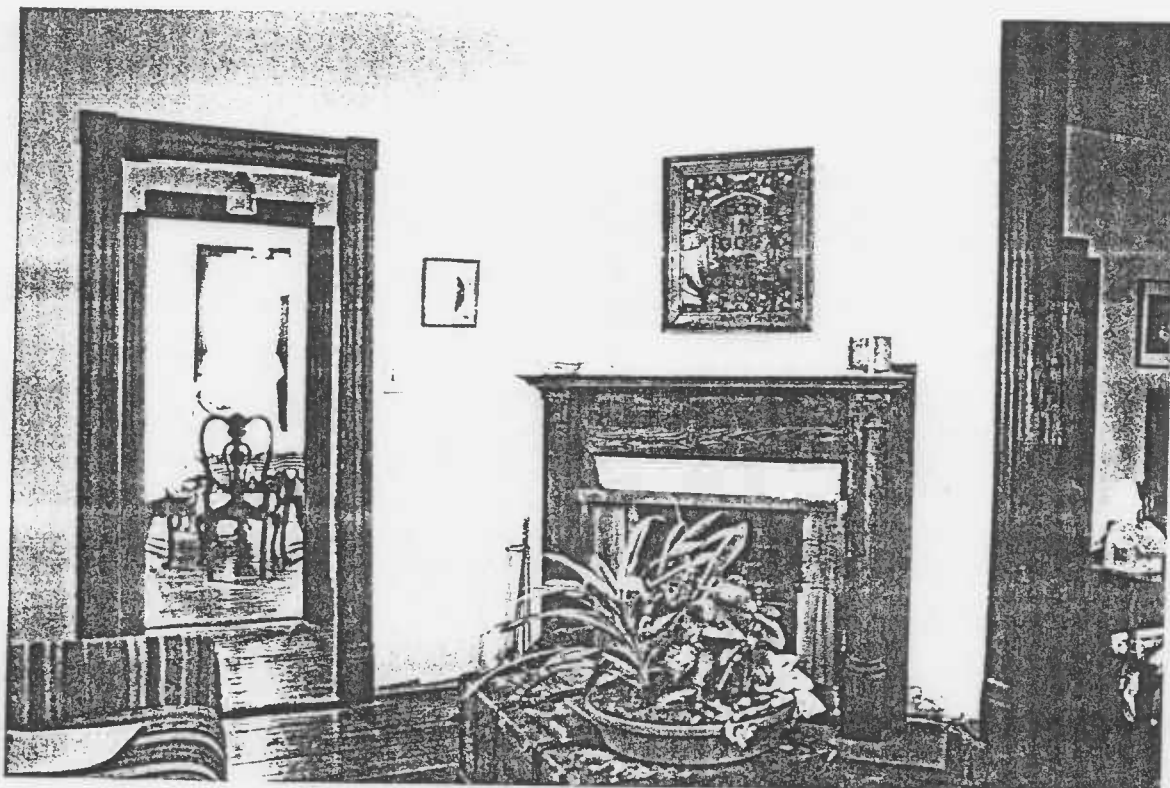
The house has been enlarged by these one-story rear additions, flanking a central addition which had been constructed earlier. The rear additions increase the size of the building by one bay in depth, adding three small spaces. There is a rear entrance in the third (south) bay of the (new) three-bay west elevation. The south elevation of this addition (a small entrance hall) is lighted by a porthole window. The corresponding space on the north addition is lighted by an original 2/2 window taken from the southwest space of the main block; the latter opening has been replaced by a smaller window over the new basement stairway.

Interior of the main block consists of four spaces (a reduced version of the four-square) divided in the front (east) by a modest stairway. The main east entrance leads directly to a small foyer from which rises the stair; the stair is enclosed, leaving no space for a stairhall or corridor. In the north front parlor there is a handsome fireplace and wood mantel set diagonally in the southwest corner of the room; it has Corinthian-order colomettes of dark chestnut, with ornate plaster capitals. Trim in the main block is also of dark chestnut, with multi-band molding and bulls-eye corner blocks. Floors are of narrow boards.

The Bowers-Sargent House fronts directly on the westerly access road of Rhode Island Avenue, formerly the right-of-way of the City and Suburban trolley line. On the adjoining lot (to the north) is an above-ground pool, and just west of the house is a large and handsome willow oak.



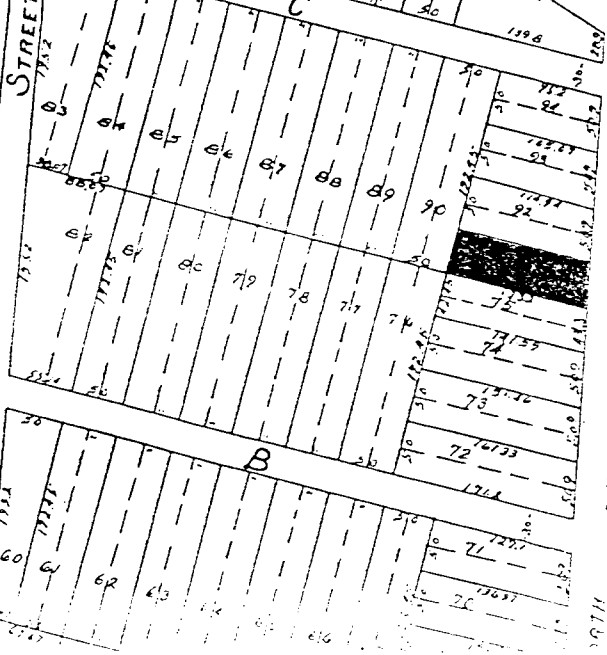
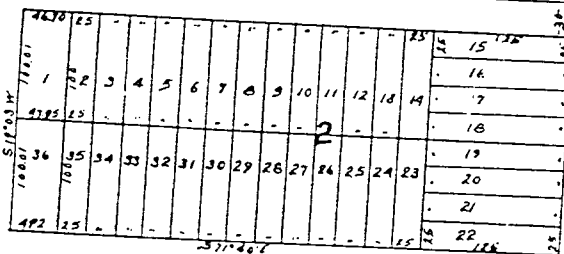
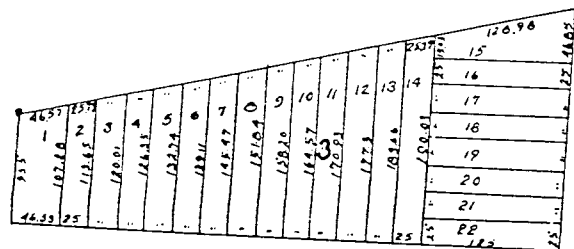
East facade from southeast



Northeast parlor, view from northeast

THE ADDITION  
TO  
**DANIELS' PARK**  
PRINCE GEORGES' COUNTY, MARYLAND  
NOVEMBER 1906.

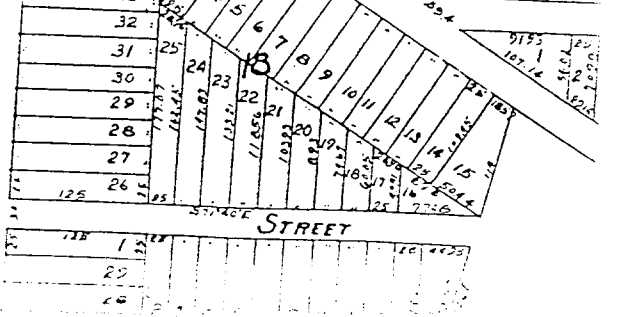
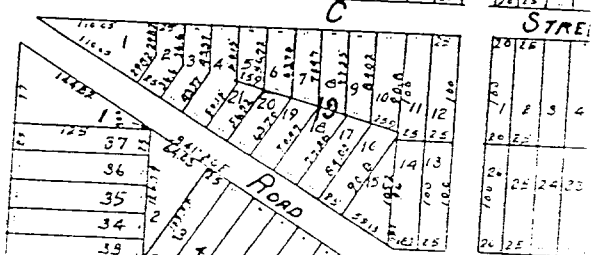
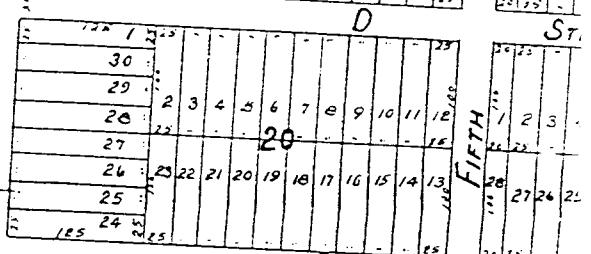
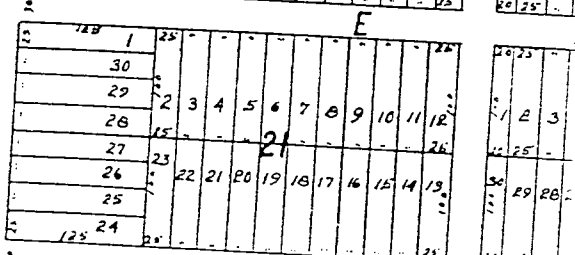
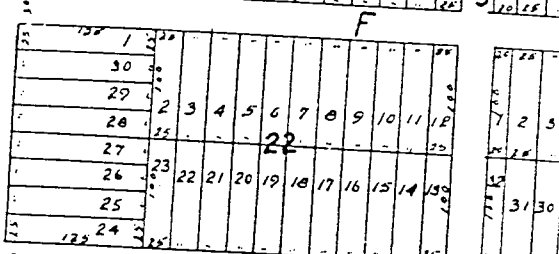
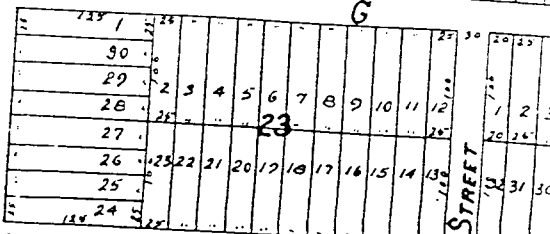
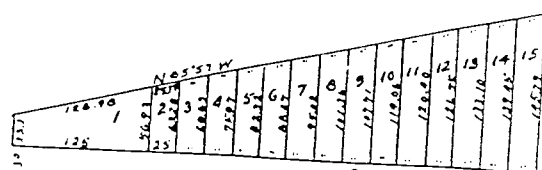
PG: 66-28



STREET

ELECTRIC RAILWAY

AND SUBURBAN



STREET

FIFTH STREET

STREET

STREET

## 8. Significance

Survey No. PG-66-28

Period	Areas of Significance—Check and justify below			
<input type="checkbox"/> prehistoric	<input type="checkbox"/> archeology-prehistoric	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> community planning	<input type="checkbox"/> landscape architecture	<input type="checkbox"/> religion
<input type="checkbox"/> 1400-1499	<input type="checkbox"/> archeology-historic	<input type="checkbox"/> conservation	<input type="checkbox"/> law	<input type="checkbox"/> science
<input type="checkbox"/> 1500-1599	<input type="checkbox"/> agriculture	<input type="checkbox"/> economics	<input type="checkbox"/> literature	<input type="checkbox"/> sculpture
<input type="checkbox"/> 1600-1699	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> architecture	<input type="checkbox"/> education	<input type="checkbox"/> military	<input type="checkbox"/> social/
<input type="checkbox"/> 1700-1799	<input type="checkbox"/> art	<input type="checkbox"/> engineering	<input type="checkbox"/> music	<input type="checkbox"/> humanitarian
<input type="checkbox"/> 1800-1899	<input type="checkbox"/> commerce	<input type="checkbox"/> exploration/settlement	<input type="checkbox"/> philosophy	<input type="checkbox"/> theater
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1900-	<input type="checkbox"/> communications	<input type="checkbox"/> industry	<input type="checkbox"/> politics/government	<input type="checkbox"/> transportation
		<input type="checkbox"/> invention		<input type="checkbox"/> other (specify)

Specific dates 1909

Builder/Architect

check: Applicable Criteria: ☐ A ☐ B ☐ C ☐ D  
and/or

Applicable Exception: ☐ A ☐ B ☐ C ☐ D ☐ E ☐ F ☐ G

Level of Significance: ☐ national ☐ state ☐ local

Prepare both a summary paragraph of significance and a general statement of history and support.

The Bowers-Sargent House is a good representative of early twentieth century suburban housing. It combines features of several popular residential architectural styles of this period: Queen Anne style decorative elements, modified bungalow appearance, and a simplified American Foursquare floorplan. It was built in 1909 in the subdivision called "Addition to Daniels Park", platted by Edward Daniels in 1906.

At the end of the nineteenth century, the land along the east side of the Washington and Baltimore Turnpike, north of the Maryland Agricultural College, consisted of rolling farmland watered by the Eastern Branch. The suburbs to the south, Berwyn Heights and Berwyn (originally platted as Charlton Heights and Central Heights), were gradually developing into residential communities for people who commuted into the District of Columbia.

In 1899, the City and Suburban Railway had opened its streetcar line into Prince George's County from the District of Columbia. This line went as far as Hyattsville and Riverdale, and by 1902 was extended through College Park and Branchville as far north as Laurel. The land along this new artery of transportation was gradually bought up by land speculators, and subdivided into new residential suburbs.

In 1905, developer Edward Daniels, who lived in Berwyn, began buying up land in the area of Branchville, a small railroad village just north of the Berwyn and Berwyn Heights subdivisions. All of this land had been part of the landholdings of the Scaggs family. The small village of Branchville, which boasted a population of 60 at the end of the nineteenth century, clustered around the general store and post office operated by Pinkney A. Scaggs.<sup>1</sup> Daniels first purchased 12 1/4 acres of Scaggs family land, and platted a small residential subdivision which he called

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Statement of Significance (continued)

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Daniels Park. It was bounded on the west by the Washington and Baltimore Turnpike, on the north and south by County roads, and it extended almost as far east as the City and Suburban Railway line.<sup>2</sup> In October 1906, Daniels purchased 35 more acres of Scaggs land which adjoined his earlier subdivision on the east; this land encompassed the City and Suburban Railway and allowed for the platting of 22 more blocks of subdivision. Daniels called this section "Addition to Daniels Park".<sup>3</sup>

In 1909, Edward Daniels sold five lots in the new subdivision to Walter J. Cogswell. On Lot 91, which faced west toward the tracks of the City and Suburban Railway, Cogswell built the subject house.<sup>4</sup> It combined features of several popular residential architectural styles of the period. The floorplan was a simplified version of the American Foursquare, while the appearance was reminiscent of the bungalow style which was then becoming popular. Each plane of the hip roof was pierced by a large gable dormer, and the wall surfaces were varied with a combination of German siding and novelty shingling. Cogswell apparently never lived in the house, but used it and another house a short distance to the north as rental properties.<sup>5</sup>

Cogswell sold the property in 1911, and it passed through a series of short-term owners until it was purchased in 1921 by Melville Bowers. For the next half century, this house was the home of the Bowers family; in 1970, Melville Bowers' widow sold the house, together with lots 91 and 92, to William A. Sargent, Jr., whose family lived on the east side of the streetcar right-of-way, by then Rhode Island Avenue. The Bowers-Sargent House is today owned and occupied by heirs of William Sargent.<sup>6</sup> In recent years they have built a small rear addition which is secondary to and compatible with the original main block.

Today the Bowers-Sargent House retains its original appearance and is an important reminder of the early days of the Daniels Park subdivision. As an early component of this turn-of-the-century streetcar suburb, it has value as part of the development of the County. The house retains most of its interior and exterior decorative detail, and embodies the distinctive characteristics of this period of domestic architecture. With its distinctive hip-roof silhouette, and the Queen Anne style detail in its surface covering, the Bowers-Sargent House is an established visual feature in the community.



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Statement of Significance (continued)

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Notes:

1. G. M. Hopkins, Atlas of Fifteen Miles Around Washington, 1878; Maryland Gazetteers, statistics for Prince George's County, 1871, 1878, 1882; Prince George's County Deeds #29:77, #31:103.
2. Prince George's County Deed #29:77; Plat A-79.
3. Prince George's County Deed #31:103; Plat A-132 (#28:48)
4. Prince George's County Deeds #51:369, 370, 424, 425; Prince George's Tax Assessments 1908-21; see Plat A-132 (BDS#1:24);
5. Federal Census for Prince George's County, 1910, Enumeration District #1;
6. Prince George's County Deeds #171:133, #3841:702; #6403:870; interview November 1989 with current owner.

## 9. Major Bibliographical References

Survey No. 66  
PG# 66-28

See notes Item #8  
see Chain of title

## 10. Geographical Data

Acreeage of nominated property 4604 sq ft  
Quadrangle name Beltsville

Tax map 25, lot 91 Daniels Park  
Quadrangle scale 1:24,000

UTM References do NOT complete UTM references

A 

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Zone Easting Northing

C 

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E 

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G 

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B 

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Zone Easting Northing

D 

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F 

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H 

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Verbal boundary description and justification

List all states and counties for properties overlapping state or county boundaries

state	code	county	code
state	code	county	code

## 11. Form Prepared By

name/title Susan G. Pearl, Research/Architectural Historian

organization PG Co. Historic Preservation Commission date April 1990

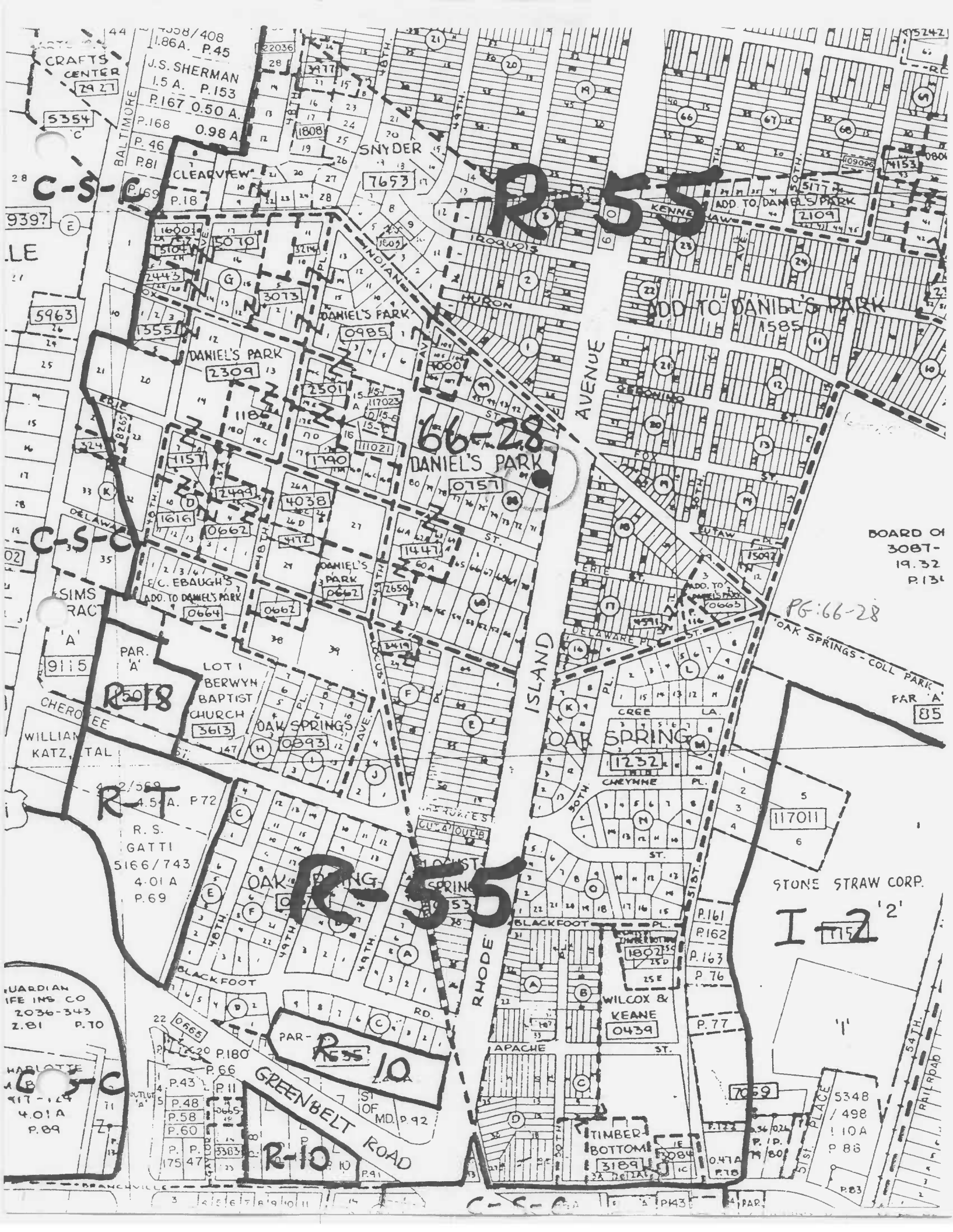
street & number 14741 Gov. Oden Bowie Drive telephone 301-952-3521

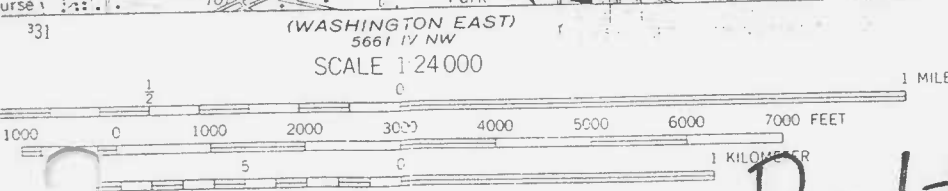
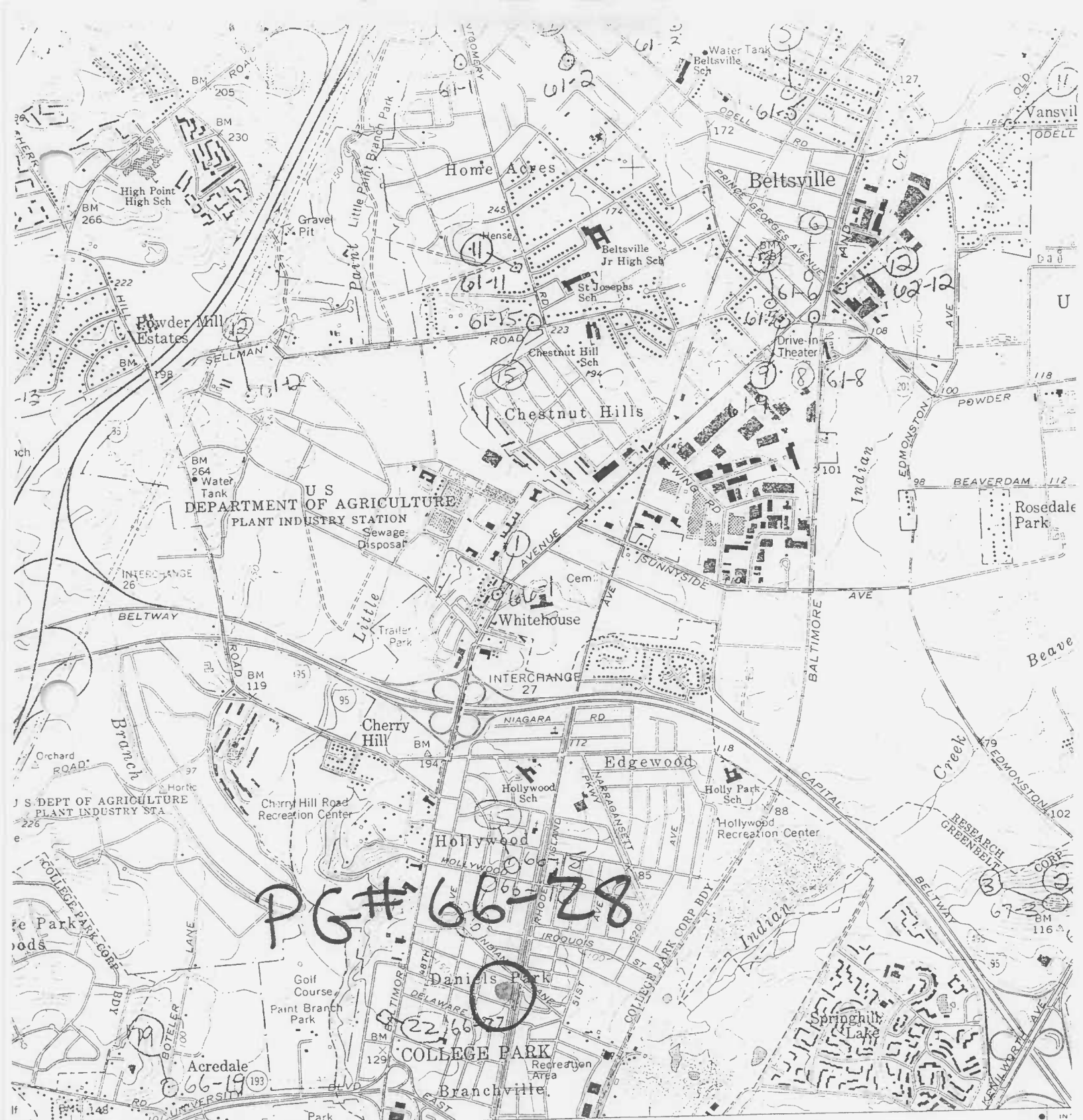
city or town Upper Marlboro state Maryland

The Maryland Historic Sites Inventory was officially created by an Act of the Maryland Legislature to be found in the Annotated Code of Maryland, Article 41, Section 181 KA, 1974 supplement.

The survey and inventory are being prepared for information and record purposes only and do not constitute any infringement of individual property rights.

return to: Maryland Historical Trust  
Shaw House  
21 State Circle  
Annapolis, Maryland 21401  
(301) 269-2438





Beltsville

THIS MAP COMPLIES WITH NATIONAL MAP ACCURACY STANDARDS

Boundary lines shown in purple compiled from latest

Heavy-du  
Medium-  
Inte

QUADRANGLE LOCATION





Bowers-Sargent House

Prince George's County, Md.

Susan L. Pearl

Northeast garden, view to south

November 1989

Neg: MHT



Bakers. Sargent House  
Prince George's Co. Md.  
Susan H. Burt  
November 1989  
East elevation  
Neg. 1447